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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your kind note of 7 May through which you inform us of the letter that you have received from the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the members of the Security Council to document S/22558, dated 2 May 1991, which contains the report of the Secretary-General regarding paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), referring to the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, and to which you annex the reply that you kindly suggested to us on that date.

I also have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your kind note of 10 May, through which you provide us with a new version of the draft reply which you will transmit to the Secretary-General, on the basis of the suggestion made by the delegation of the United States.

Although the Government of the Republic of Cuba will not object to the reply which you suggest to us in your kind note of 10 May, it would like to take this opportunity to recall that at the 2981st meeting of the Security Council, on 3 April 1991, when resolution 687 (1991) was adopted, the Cuban delegation expressed the view that "the Security Council has no authority whatsoever to demand respect for certain boundaries, demarcate them or decide in what part of what region of the world those boundaries are violable, or in respect of them proclaim the intention to assume a special responsibility". At that time also the Cuban delegation recalled how in this case the Council had assumed a selective attitude since in other cases involving problems of boundaries, the inviolability of which the Council does have the obligation to safeguard, measures of such scope were not taken, and added that "in future this curious selectivity on the part of the Council will be remembered because more than one person will recall that the conflict which we have been considering for so many months has occurred in a part of the world where more than one conflict has existed and exists - conflicts which are closely linked to the fact that for some parties boundaries do not exist or are moveable or adjustable, and that old maps are not always remembered which clearly defined

the extent of that entity - which some do not wish to remember - called Palestine, or that we do not always feel tempted to recall that this Security Council has also assumed specific responsibilities with respect to the international boundaries which separate the State of Israel from the Republic of Lebanon".

In the light of the foregoing, Sir, I should like to make it clear that the fact the delegation of Cuba does not object to taking note of the report in question, and particularly with the addition which appears in the draft reply annexed to your kind note of 10 May, does not mean that there have been changes in the Cuban position concerning Security Council resolution 687 (1991) or paragraph 3 of that resolution.

I should be grateful if you would take the necessary steps to have this letter published and circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON de QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations